

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 167772  
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMO-04 SIG-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00  
DHA-02 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00  
PM-05 DODE-00 /048 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS:BGT  
-----116379 191610Z /43

O 191554Z JUL 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE  
CINCLANT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 167772

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, NU, XM, SHUM, PFOR

SUBJECT: ARMS TRANSFER DELAYS ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS

FOLLOWING INTERCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT STATE NOON PRESS  
BRIEFING JULY 18:

Q: JOHN, ALSO ON ARMS, THERE IS A REPORT THAT THE STATE  
DEPARTMENT IS TRYING TO DELAY THE SHIPMENT OF SMALL ARMS  
FOR LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT?

A: YES, I CAN CONFIRM THAT, ROY. HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER  
PERTINENT CONSIDERATIONS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN FUNDAMENTAL TO  
THE REVIEW PROCESS PRIOR TO THE GRANTING OF MUNITIONS  
CONTROL LICENSES. THAT WAS OPERATIVE IN THIS CASE.  
BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN  
COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE FOUR MENTIONED -- I BELIEVE  
ARGENTINA, URUGUAY, EL SALVADOR AND NICARAGUA -- NO EXPORT  
LICENSES FOR ARMS TRANSACTIONS TO THOSE COUNTRIES, OR WITH  
THOSE COUNTRIES, HAVE BEEN APPROVED IN RECENT WEEKS.  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 167772

Q: WHAT IS THE CONDITION UNDER WHICH THEY WOULD BE AP-  
PROVED?

I MEAN WHAT IS THE CRITERION EXACTLY?

A: WELL, ROY, I AM NOT GOING TO TRY TO SPECULATE TO YOU

ABOUT WHAT CONDITIONS WOULD GAIN OUR APPROVAL OF THESE ARMS EXPORT LICENSES. I WOULD ONLY REPEAT WHAT I THINK WE HAVE SAID MANY TIMES, THAT HUMAN RIGHTS IS AN IMPORTANT THREAD OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY. THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THAT POLICY IS A SUBJECT OF STUDY BY MANY INVOLVED AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT AND WHEN THAT STUDY IS COMPLETE PERHAPS WE CAN GIVE YOU A CLEARER ANSWER AS TO CRITERIA.

Q: CAN YOU GIVE US IN THIS CASE HOW EXACTLY THE DECISION WAS ARRIVED AT?

I MEAN WHAT SORT OF COMMITTEE MEETS AND WHERE IS THE HUMAN RIGHTS INPUT.

A: I DON'T THINK I HAVE THAT.

NO. I DON'T HAVE THE PARTICULARS ON HOW THAT DECISION WAS ARRIVED AT, BUT THERE ISN'T ANY PARTICULAR MYSTERY TO IT.

Q: WHEN WAS THE DECISION TAKEN, JOHN?

A: WELL, AS I SAY, NO LICENSES HAVE BEEN GRANTED IN RECENT WEEKS. I DON'T KNOW PRECISELY WHEN THE DECISION ON THESE PARTICULAR ONES WAS MADE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 167772

LET ME JUST CHECK THIS.

NO. I DON'T HAVE THE EXACT DATES.

Q: JOHN, WHY THOSE FOUR COUNTRIES AND WHY NOT OTHERS?

A: THOSE FOUR COUNTRIES ARE AMONG OTHERS, JUAN. THOSE FOUR COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN AMONG THOSE WHERE EXPORT LICENSES HAVE BEEN WITHHELD.

Q: THERE ARE MORE THAN FOUR COUNTRIES?

A: YES, BUT I AM NOT GOING TO GO INTO A LIST OF THEM.

Q: ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT CASH SALES HERE, JOHN?

A: I AM TALKING ABOUT COMMERCIAL SALES, RIGHT.

Q: JOHN, CAN I HAVE A QUESTION OVER HERE?

A: EXCUSE ME. YOU HAVE A QUESTION ON -- I DID NOT HEAR YOU.

Q: I WOULD LIKE A QUESTION ON THIS. I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET INTO THIS.

A: PLEASE ENTER.

Q: IS THIS A HOLDING ACTION OR IS THIS A FIRM ACTION?

A: THE MATTER IS STILL UNDER REVIEW.

Q: JOHN, DO YOU KNOW HOW FAR REACHING OR WIDE RANGING THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE? DO THEY APPLY TO SPARE PARTS AND SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION? HAT IS IT COVERED BY?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 167772

A: THE ONLY THING I HAVE, LARS, IS I BELIEVE THEY WERE POLICE WEAPONS AND SIDE ARMS. WHAT THAT ACTUALLY DESCRIBES, I DON'T KNOW.

Q: BLACKJACKS.

Q: TEAR GAS.

A: OTHER QUESTIONS ON THAT?

Q: DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY COUNTRIES THERE ARE ALL TOGETHER?

A: I DON'T, NO.

Q: THERE ARE MORE THAN FOUR?

A: I SAY THEY ARE AMONG OTHER COUNTRIES, YES. HOW MANY MORE, FRANCOIS, I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO TELL YOU.

Q: COULD WE NOT HAVE A RESPONSIVE QUESTION AS TO HOW MANY COUNTRIES THE UNITED STATES HAS WITHHELD?

A: THIS KIND OF --

Q: THIS KIND OF ACTION.

A: YES. I THINK WE CAN TRY TO GET THAT FOR YOU, MURREY.

Q: DO YOU KNOW OFF HAND, JOHN, ARE THEY IN OTHER REGIONS, THE OTHER COUNTRIES?

A: I DON'T OFF HAND KNOW, NO. ON HAND, I MAY BE ABLE TO GET YOU AN ANSWER. VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 167772

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE167772  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** WMATTHEWS:BGT  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770268-0662  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770742/aaaabjzj.tel  
**Line Count:** 175  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** d25b9a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1816429  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARMS TRANSFER DELAYS ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS FOLLOWING INTERCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT STATE NOON PRESS BRIEFING JULY 18  
**TAGS:** MASS, SHUM, PFOR, NU, XM  
**To:** ALL POSTS CINCLANT  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/d25b9a67-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009